BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1926.

BEWDLEY:

W. E. TOLLEY, PRINTER, 29, LOAD STREET.

Bewdley,
April 28th, 1927.

To the Town Council of Bewdley.

Gentlemen,

My Report for the year 1926 will be an ordinary Report, and will therefore be as brief as is in conformity with the instructions given to me.

General Statistics.

The area of the District (including water) is 2,105 acres.

The Population (1921) was 2,758, and is now estimated by the Registrar General as 2,574.

The number of Inhabited Houses (1921) was 663.

The number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921) was 660.

The Rateable Value, £9,512 5s. 0d.

The sum represented by a Penny Rate, £29 2s. 6d.

There is very little industry in the Borough itself, the majority of the inhabitants working in the Carpet and other Factories in Kidderminrtcr, and the Local Mines at Highley and Kinlet. A small Brass Foundry and Tan Yard, with Agriculture and Timber Work, employ a comparatively small proportion of the population.

The wages, on the average, are low, but there is very little serious poverty.

Vital Statistics.

Births	Total	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 of population.
Legitimate	57	39	18	22·9
Illegitimate	2	—	2	

No woman died in, or in consequence of, child birth.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 birth, 16. Legitimate, 1. Illegitimate, 0. Total, 1.

There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

There was 1 death from Diarrhœa under 2 years of age.

Deaths	Total	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
	39	19	20	15·15

Of the deaths registered as belonging to the District ther were:

Under 1 year	1
Between 1 year and 5 years	1
,, 5 years and 15 ,,	None
,, 15 ,, ,, 25 ,,	1
,, 25 ,, ,, 65 ,,	13
Over 65 years	23
	39

Health Services.

An agreement exists for isolation of Scarlet Fever cases in the Hospital belonging to Kidderminster Borough, and the Council has agreed to share in a scheme for a County Isolation Hospital for Small Pox.

Non-infectious cases needing Hospital treatment are provided for in the Kidderminster and District Hospital, and the Poor Law Infirmary.

Tuberculosis cases are cared for by the County.

An Ambulance for Scarlet Fever cases is provided by the Hospital, and one for non-infectious and accident cases can be readily obtained from Kidderminster.

There is no Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the district, but I have hopes that one may be provided in the near future, which I consider would be of great value to the mothers and children of the district.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary and Venereal Clinic are both in Kidderminster.

Health Officers.

There is a part time Medical Officer of Health, and a Sanitary Inspector, who is also Borough Surveyor, Food Inspector, and Waterworks Manager.

Nurses.

There are two registered Midwives practising privately in the district, and a Nurse, under the control of a Committee of Ladies, for general nursing, who also acts as School and Infant inspecting Nurse.

Legislation in Force.

There are local Bye-laws in force relating to Slaughterhouses, Common Lodging Houses and Nuisances, dated 1886.

Water.

The Water Supply remains excellent.

Rivers and Streams.

The Sewers still discharge into the River Severn, but there is no serious pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

There are now 368 Water Closets, 88 Pail Closets, and 126 Middens in the district, compared with 364, 87, and 128 respectively, last year.

Scavenging.

This is done by the Corporation workmen.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector has made 380 visits of Inspection. He has served 43 preliminary notices and 9 statutory notices, with fairly satisfactory results.

Schools.

The Sanitary condition of the Schools is good, and the water supply satisfactory. The Schools were not closed during the year on account of any infectious disease.

Housing.

The Council has had under consideration various sites for a Housing Scheme, but so far no decision has been arrived at, and, except for some minor improvements, the housing condition of the district remains as I reported fully in my last year's report.

Housing Statictics for the year 1926.

Number of New Houses built during the year, both by private persons, one with State assistance 2

Unfit dwelling houses:

Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 53

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 30

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injuricus to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 9

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 7

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 .. .. .. Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 14

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) by Owners 12

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners .. .. Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 .. .. Nil

Milk and Dairies.

All Farms, Dairies, and Milk Shops have been inspected during the year.

Meat, &c.

All Slaughter Houses, Meat Shops, &c., are regularly inspected. Proceedings have been taken in one case for slaughtering on unlicensed premises, and in one for contravention of the Meat Regulations. In each case a conviction was secured.

23 Tins of Preserved Foods unfit for human consumption were destroyed.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

There are 25 on register and these are regularly inspected, 42 inspections having been made.

Infectious Diseases.

The following have been notified during the year:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	3	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1926.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age periods	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmon'y M.	Non-Pulmon'y F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmon'y M.	Non-Pulmon'y F.
0								
1								
5	1							
10		1						
15		1						
20					1			
25	2	3	1	1	2			
35								
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals	3	5	1	1	3			

No case has arisen of a Tuberculous person being employed in the milk trade.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

U. W. N. MILES,

Medical Officer of Health.